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SONIC

TM

THE HEDGEHOG

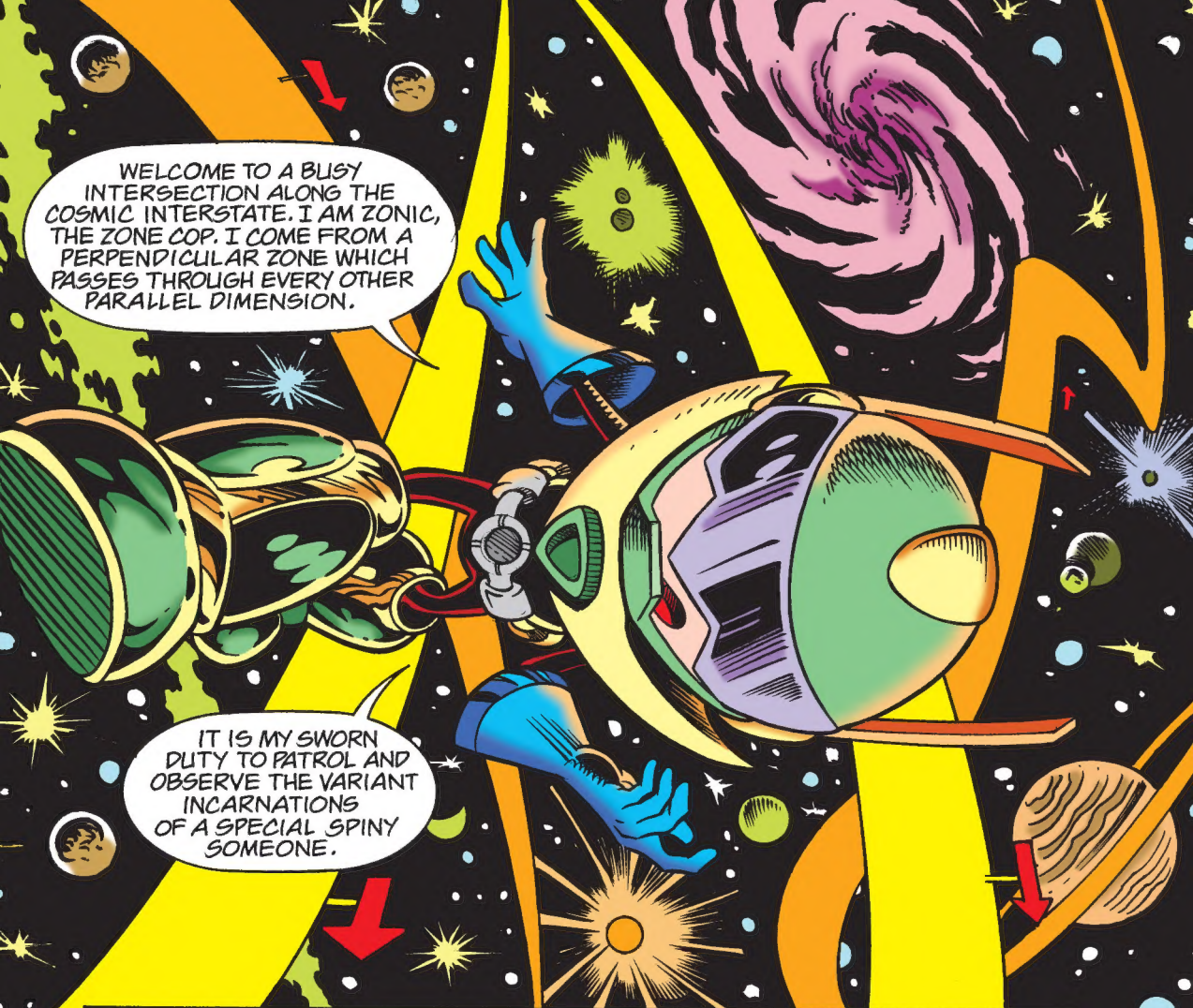
QUANTUM LEAP



SEGA



SPALVARIO
JDRAY '01



WELCOME TO A BUSY INTERSECTION ALONG THE COSMIC INTERSTATE. I AM ZONIC, THE ZONE COP. I COME FROM A PERPENDICULAR ZONE WHICH PASSES THROUGH EVERY OTHER PARALLEL DIMENSION.

IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO PATROL AND OBSERVE THE VARIANT INCARNATIONS OF A SPECIAL SPINY SOMEONE.



MY PRIMARY FOCUS IS HISTORY'S MOST PIVOTAL HERO, SONIC PRIME, THE TRUE BLUE HEDGEHOG OF ALL REALITIES.

ZAP!

BUT THERE ARE COUNTLESS VERSIONS OF SONIC IN ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS... SUCH AS THE ONE I'M ABOUT TO VISIT WITH YOU--

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WE HAVE TRAVELED A FULL MILLENNIUM FORWARD IN TIME TO A DIVERGENT FUTURE. IT IS THE YEAR 4235 AND THIS IS MOBIUS, OR RATHER, WHAT REMAINS OF IT ONE THOUSAND YEARS AFTER "THE WAR OF THE WORLD" ALMOST OBLITERATED IT,

MOBIUS IS STILL A RAVAGED HUSK, BARELY CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING LIFE IN CERTAIN ISOLATED AREAS. HARDLY A PLACE ANYONE WOULD CHOOSE TO VISIT AND YET...

NO METEOR CAUSES A SONIC BOOM LIKE THAT! I'LL BET THAT WAS SOME KIND OF INCOMING SPACECRAFT! I'LL CHECK IT OUT...



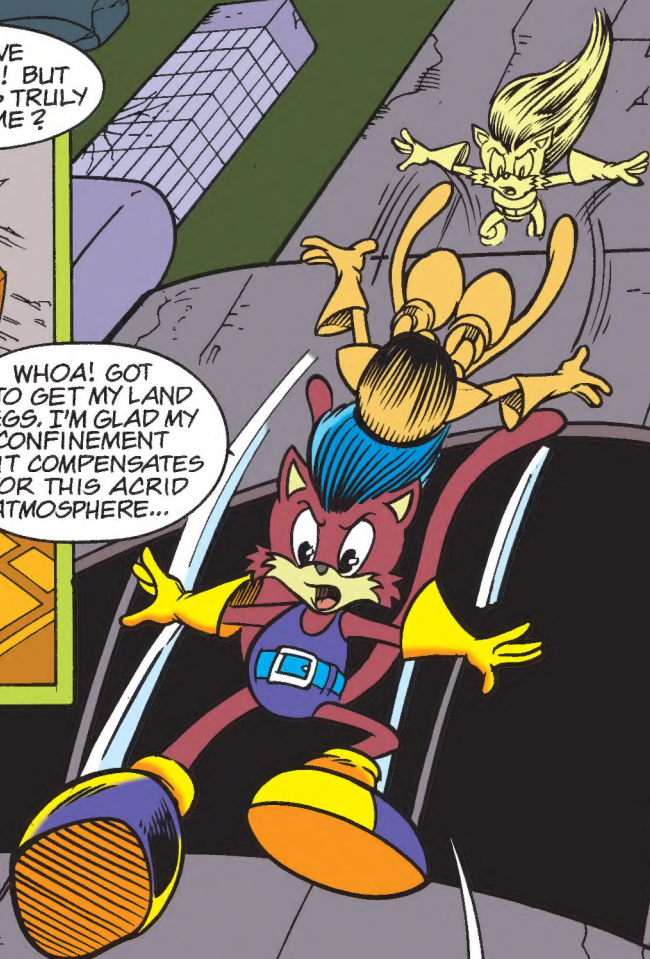
I WAS RIGHT -- A STRANGER'S COME TO TOWN... MY TOWN!



I...I'VE LANDED! BUT CAN THIS TRULY BE...HOME?



WHOA! GOT TO GET MY LAND LEGS. I'M GLAD MY CONFINEMENT SUIT COMPENSATES FOR THIS ACRID ATMOSPHERE...



YOU DON'T SMELL SO GOOD YOURSELF, INTRUDER! HOW LONG SINCE YOU WASHED THOSE NASTY THREADS?

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY

PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE

MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WRITER JIM VALENTINO-PENCILLER
HARVO-INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER STEPHANIE VOZZO-COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR VICTOR GORELICK-MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DON'T "DIS" MY SUIT, PAL! IT ALLOWS ME TO FOCUS AND FIRE MY SPEED POWER AS A BOLT OF PSYCHO-KINETIC ENERGY!

FTAW!

YEEOWTCH!

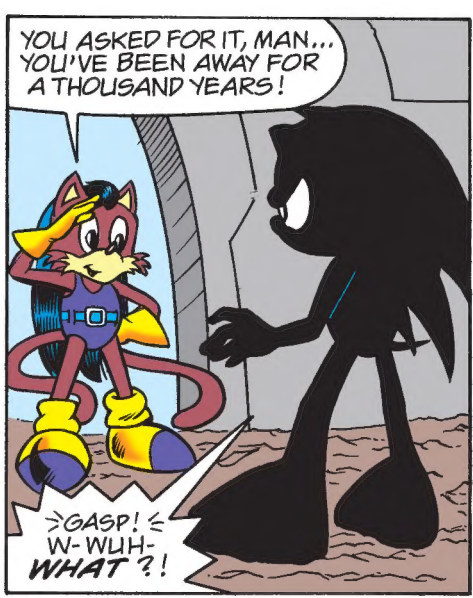
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU! I JUST NEED INFORMATION. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE FROM MOBIUS? TEN YEARS?... MAYBE TWENTY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU?

"IT WAS 3235. ROBOTNIK TRICKED ME INTO THINKING SALLY WAS INSIDE A POD WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A ROCKETSHIP! HE LAUNCHED ME INTO DEEP SPACE!

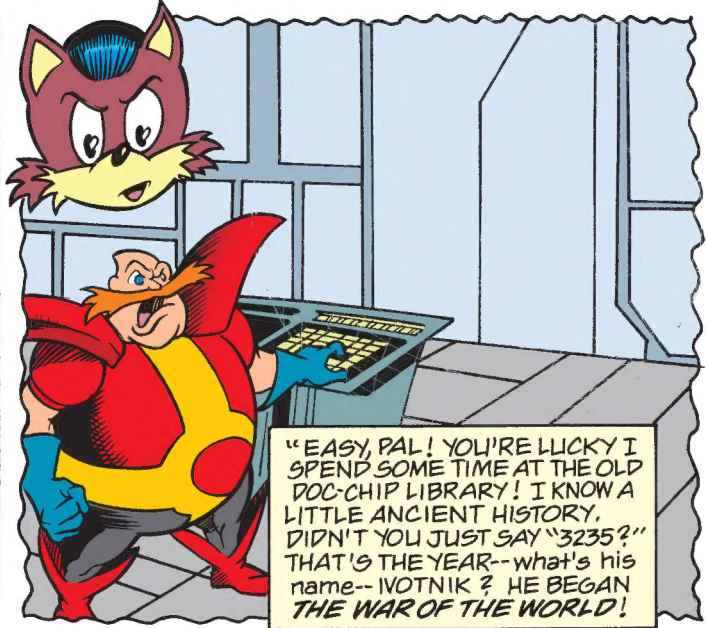
"ONCE BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM, I BEGAN TO RUN OUT OF AIR AND I WAS PICKED UP BY A RACE OF GYPSY ALIENS CALLED THE PEARLMEN. THEY SAVED ME BY FITTING ME WITH THIS LIFE-SUSTAINING SUIT, BUT WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH ME.

"I TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM, BUT IT WAS NO USE. THE PEARLMEN PUT ME IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND JETTISONED ME IN A SHUTTLE CAPSULE. I'VE BEEN DRIFTING EVER SINCE. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? I MUST KNOW!"

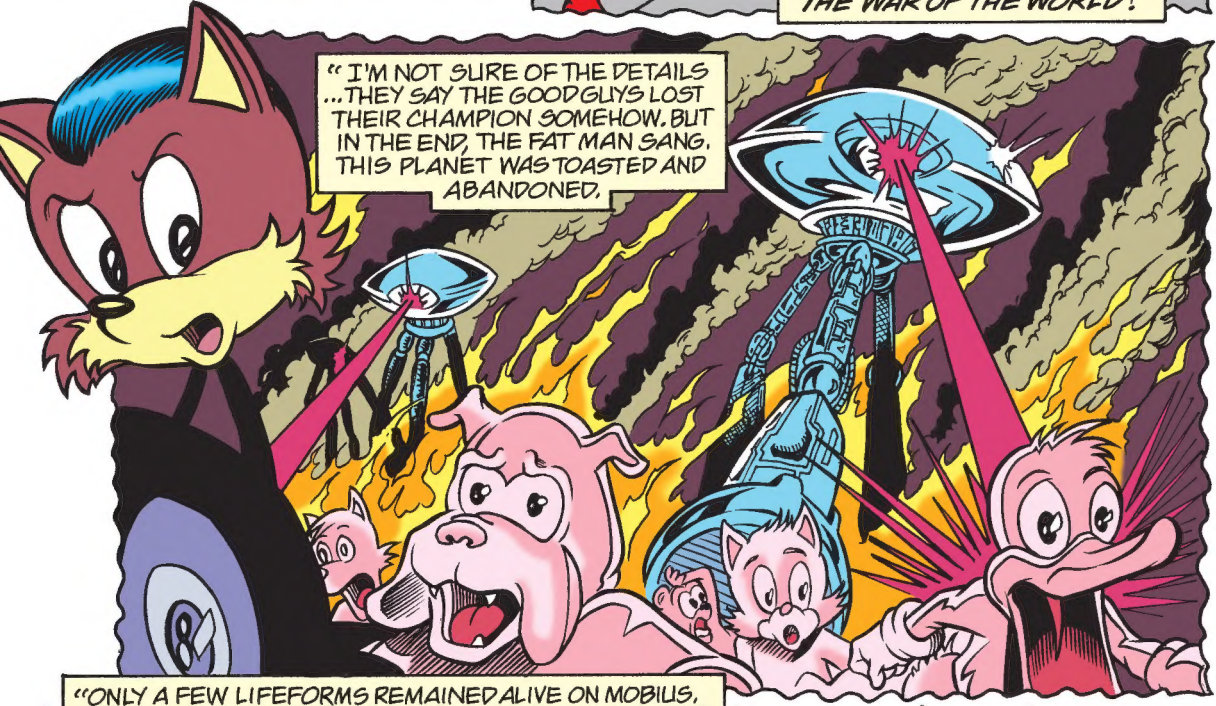


YOU ASKED FOR IT, MAN... YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!

>GASP!<
W-WUH-WHAT?!

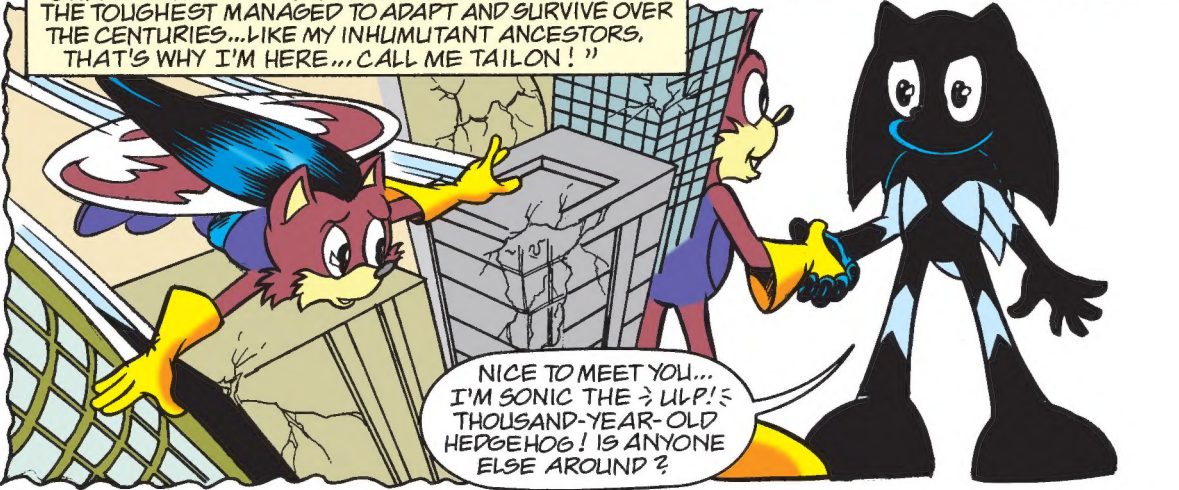


"EASY, PAL! YOU'RE LUCKY I SPEND SOME TIME AT THE OLD DOC-CHIP LIBRARY! I KNOW A LITTLE ANCIENT HISTORY. DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY "3235?" THAT'S THE YEAR-- what's his name-- I VOTNIK? HE BEGAN THE WAR OF THE WORLD!"

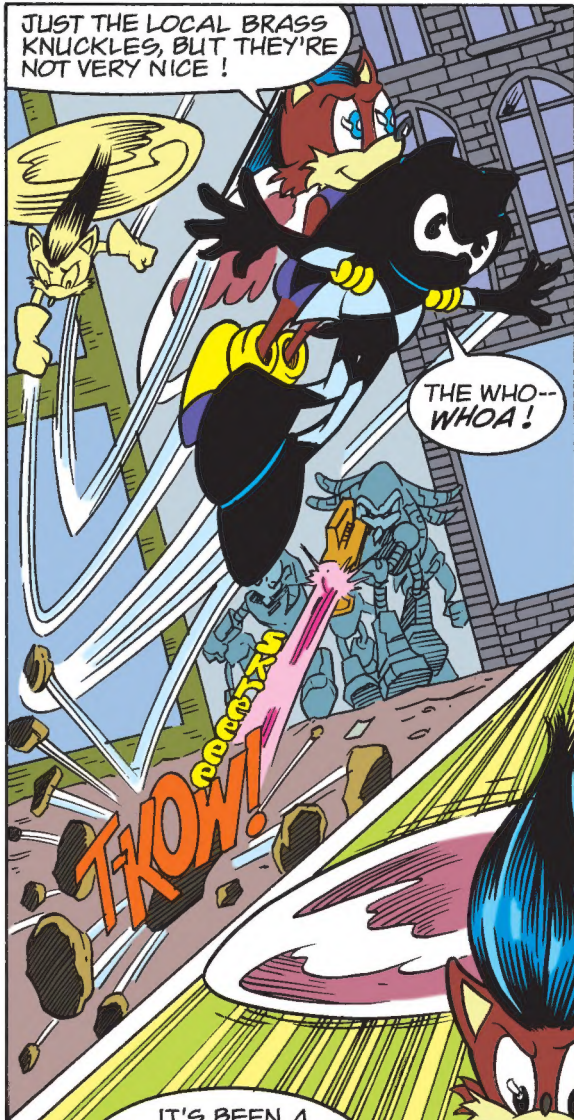


"I'M NOT SURE OF THE DETAILS ...THEY SAY THE GOOD GLIYS LOST THEIR CHAMPION SOMEHOW. BUT IN THE END, THE FAT MAN SANG, THIS PLANET WAS TOASTED AND ABANDONED."

"ONLY A FEW LIFEFORMS REMAINED ALIVE ON MOBIUS, THE TOUGHEST MANAGED TO ADAPT AND SURVIVE OVER THE CENTURIES...LIKE MY INHUMTANT ANCESTORS, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE... CALL ME TAILON!"



NICE TO MEET YOU... I'M SONIC THE >LULP!< THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD HERGEHOG! IS ANYONE ELSE AROUND?



JUST THE LOCAL BRASS KNUCKLES, BUT THEY'RE NOT VERY NICE!

THE WHO-- WHOA!

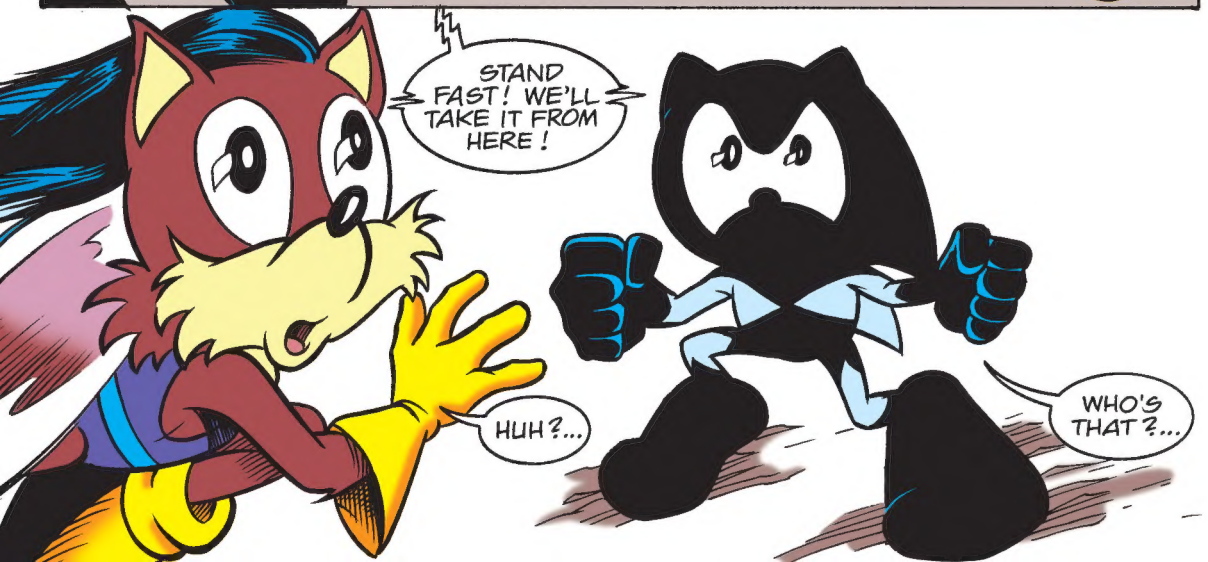
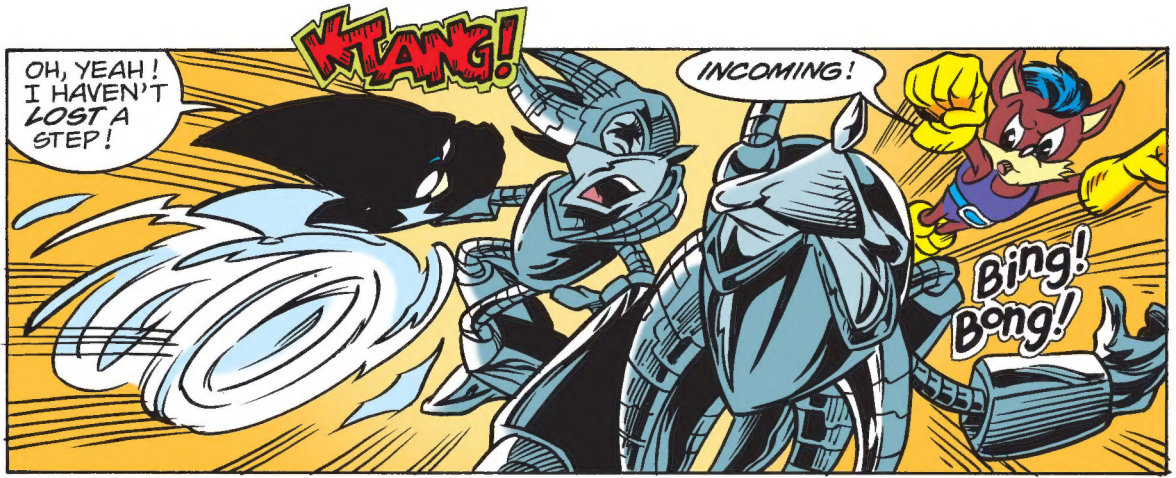
IT'S BEEN A THOUSAND YEARS SINCE I RUMBLED! I'M ITCHIN' TO GO!



IT'S JUST A SMALL GANG OF THEM. THERE'S THOUSANDS OF RENEGADE ROBOTS LIKE THESE ALL OVER THE CITY!

TELL YOU WHAT-- SET ME DOWN OVER THERE AND WE'LL TAKE 'EM DOWN!

LET'S DO IT!



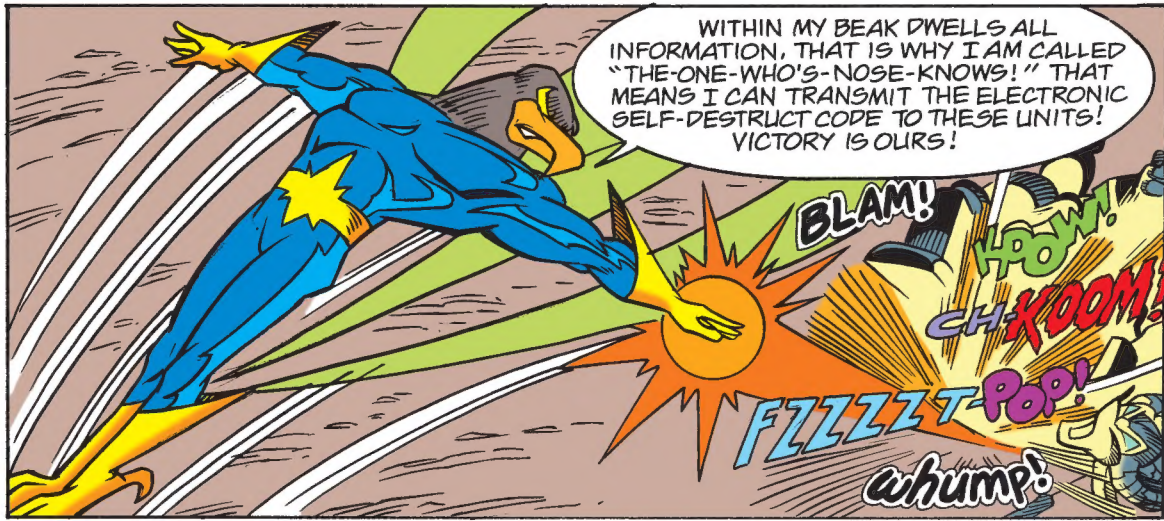
WE'RE
THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS OF
THE GALAXY,
AND THIS IS
OUR SHIP,
UPDOCK!
MY NAME'S
CAPTAIN
ROTOR-27!

GREETINGS,
I AM SALETA!

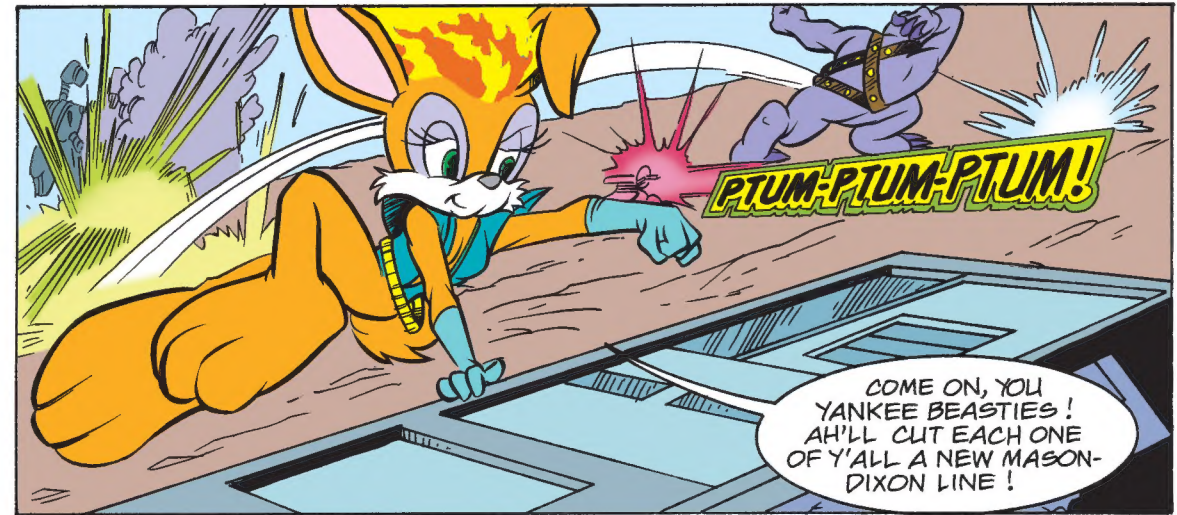
ZEY CALL ME
'TWAN-DU!

HEY,
Y'ALL!
CALL ME
BUNNI!

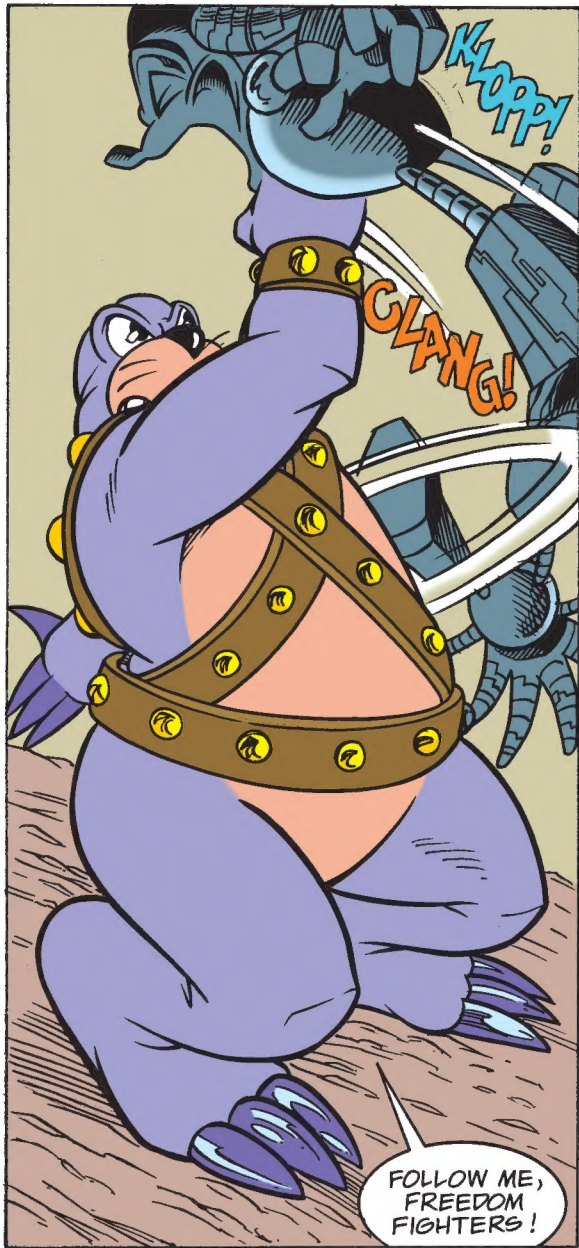
AND I AM
HAWKHAWK--
STAND
ASIDE!



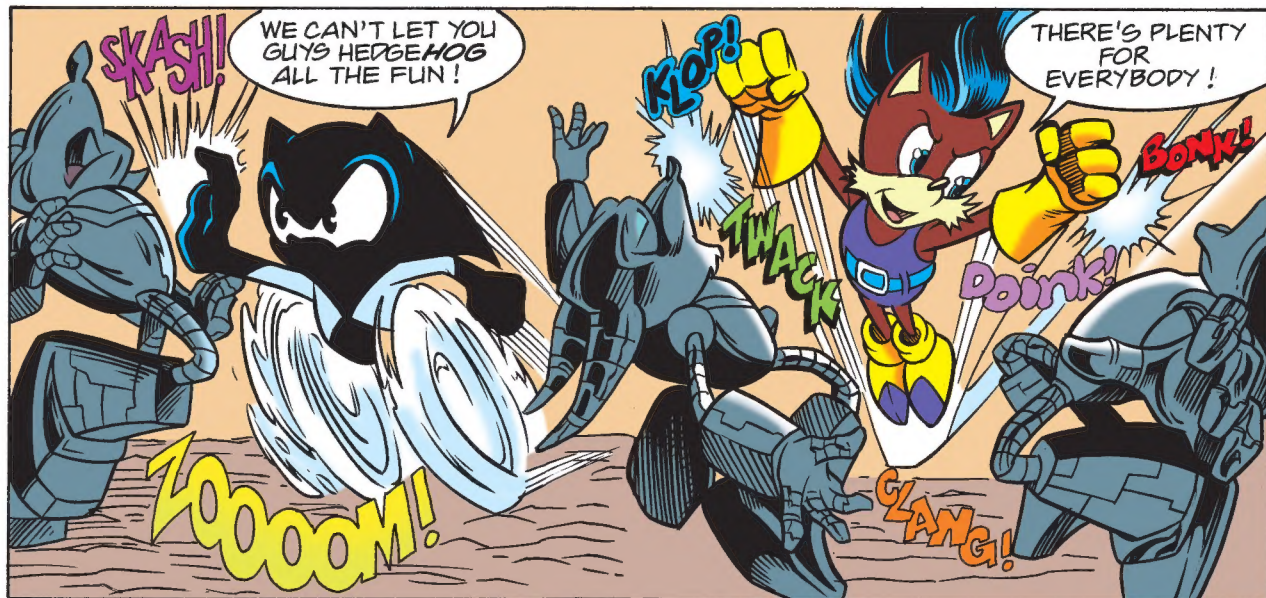
WITHIN MY BEAK DWELLS ALL INFORMATION, THAT IS WHY I AM CALLED "THE-ONE-WHO'S-NOSE-KNOWS!" THAT MEANS I CAN TRANSMIT THE ELECTRONIC SELF-DESTRUCT CODE TO THESE UNITS! VICTORY IS OURS!



COME ON, YOU YANKEE BEASTIES! AH'LL CUT EACH ONE OF Y'ALL A NEW MASON-DIXON LINE!

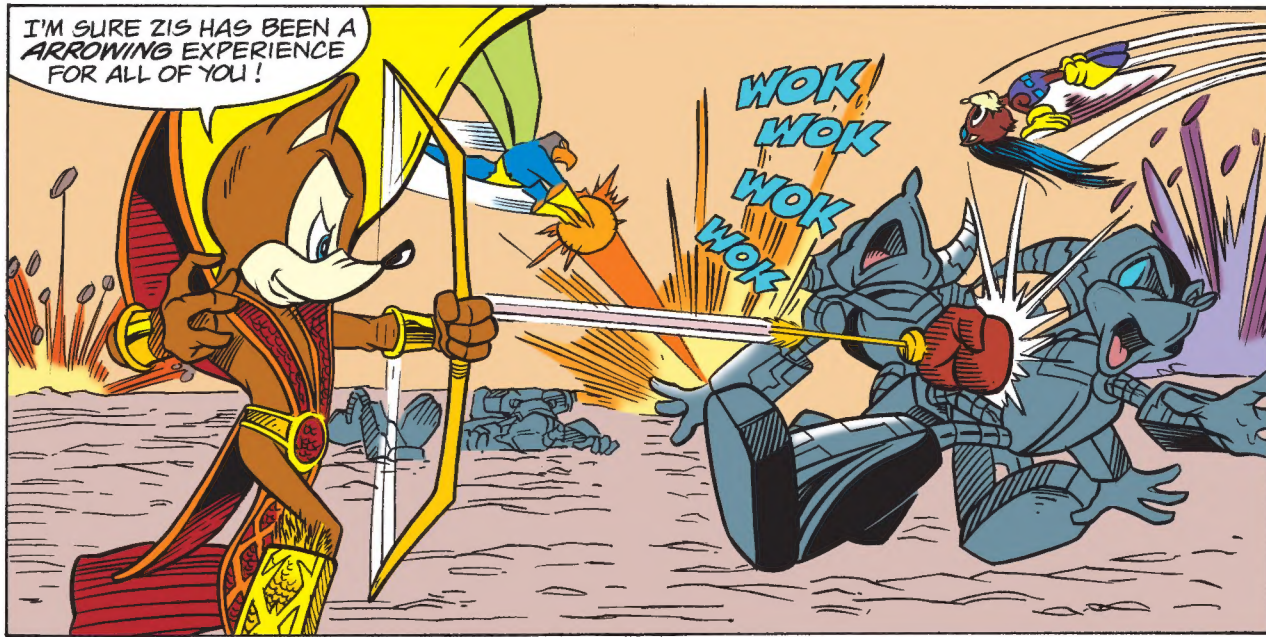


FOLLOW ME, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

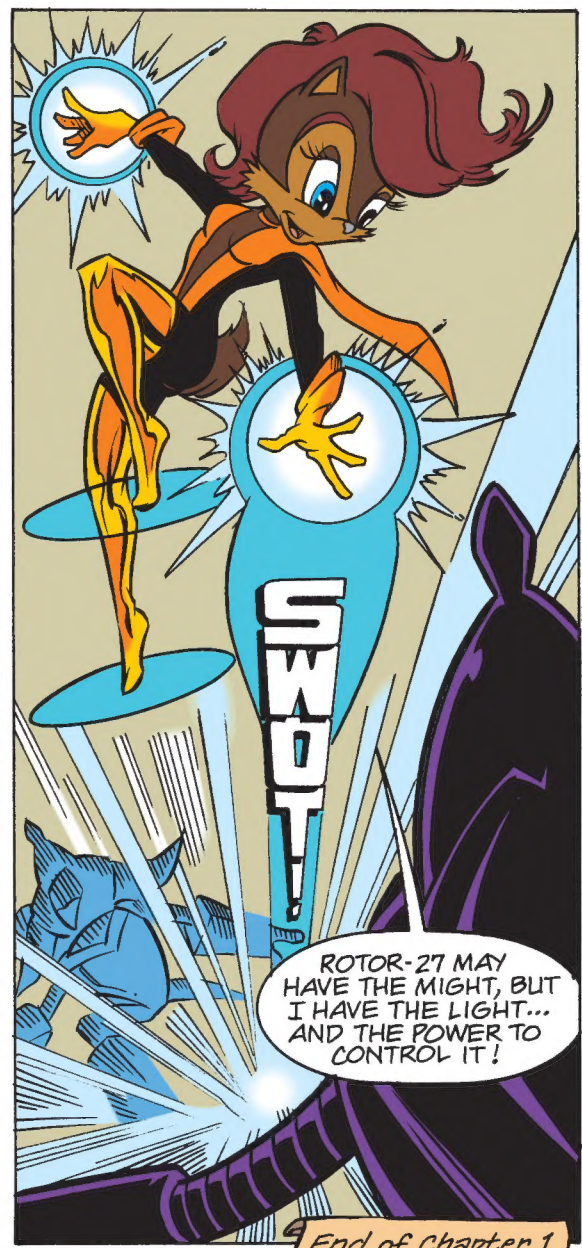


WE CAN'T LET YOU GUYS HEDGEHOG ALL THE FUN!

THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYBODY!



I'M SURE ZIS HAS BEEN A ARROWING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF YOU!



ROTOR-27 MAY HAVE THE MIGHT, BUT I HAVE THE LIGHT... AND THE POWER TO CONTROL IT!

End of Chapter 1

SO, WHEN A SOLAR SYSTEM SCAN REVEALED YOUR SPACE CAPSULE'S ENERGY TRAIL, WE FOLLOWED IT TO THIS SCORCHED SITE HERE ON MOBIUS.

AH DIDN'T THINK WE'D FIND A BOLL WEEVIL ALIVE ON THIS SCORCHED MARBLE, LET ALONE A FULL-GROWN FOX!

YOU GOTTA TELL ME HOW YOU GET YOUR HAIR TO DO THAT, SCARLETT O'HARE!

I THINK A QUICK HISTORY LESSON ABOUT OUR TEAM IS IN ORDER!

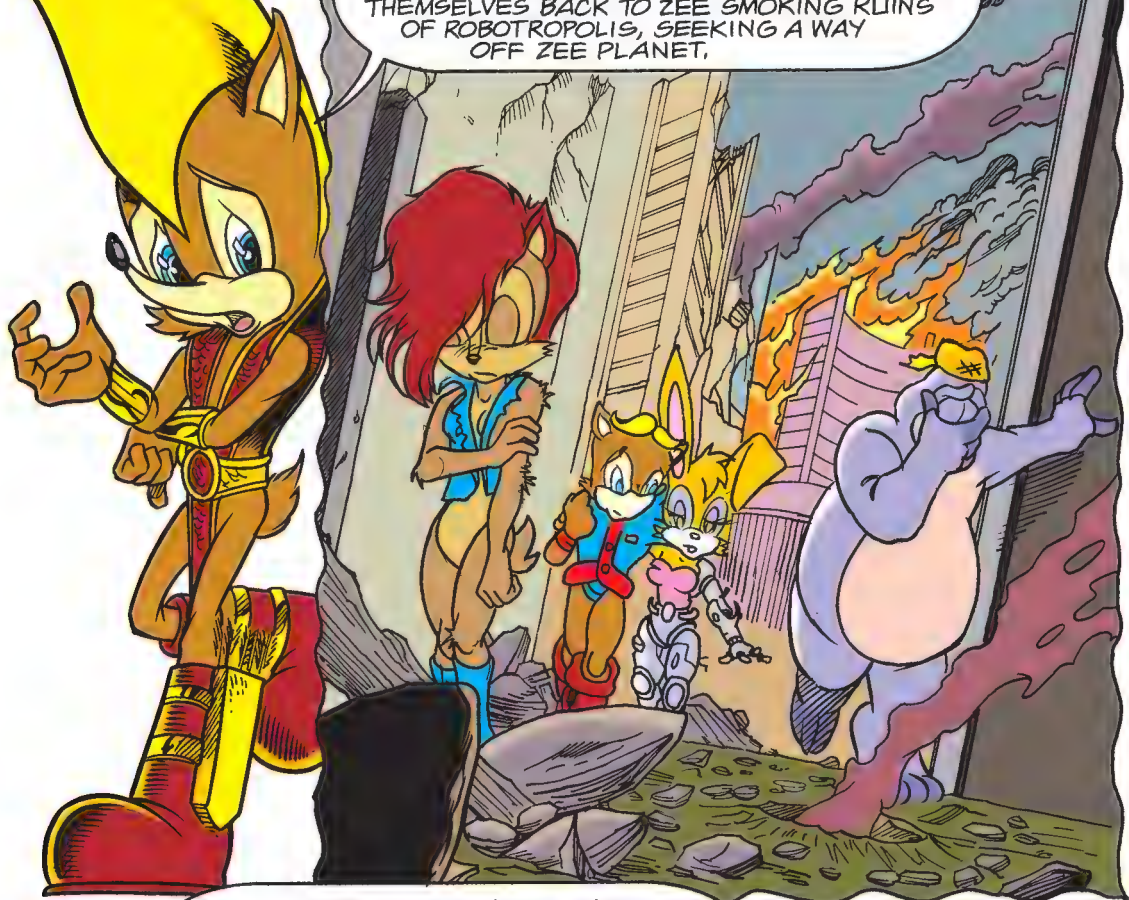
FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY

PART ONE, CHAPTER TWO

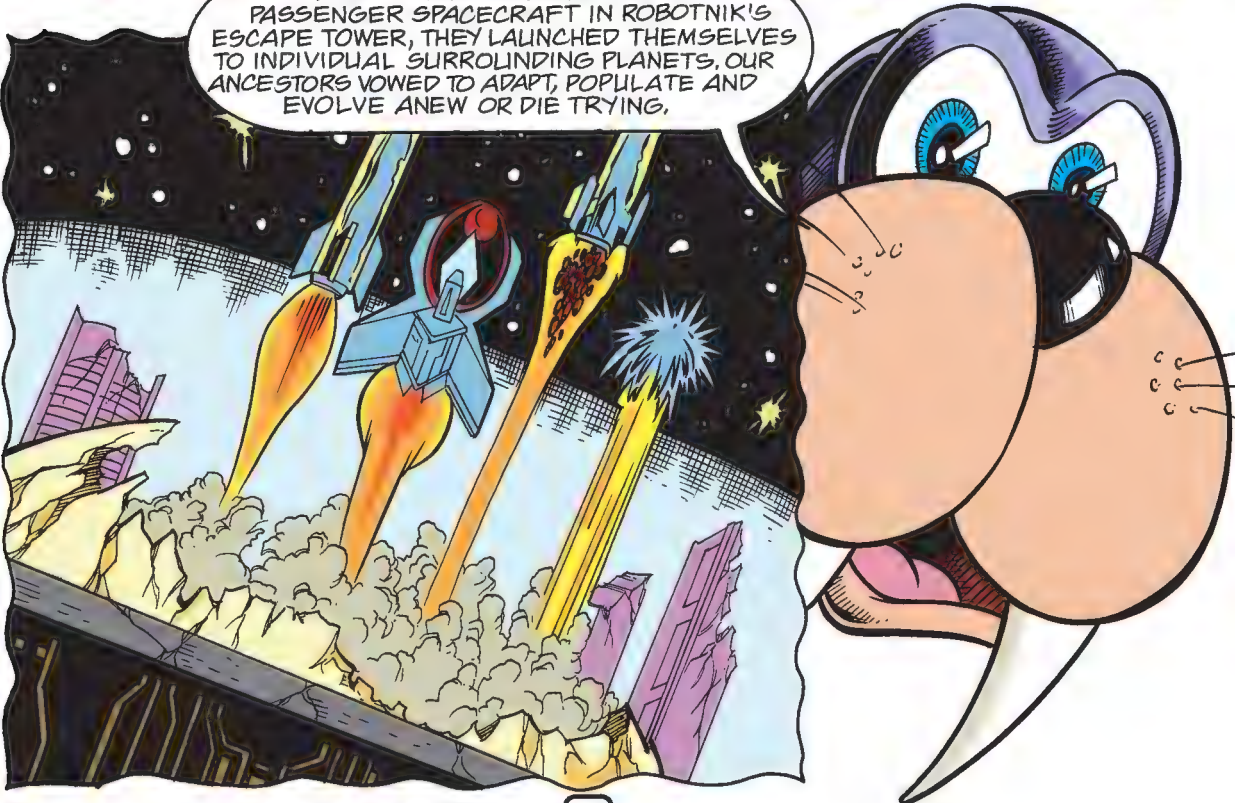
THE WAR OF THE WORLD ENDED BADLY FOR EVERYONE...EVEN IVO ROBOTNIK. AFTER DESTROYING ALMOST EVERY LIVING THING, HIS MECHANIZED WORLD IMPLoded, TAKING HIM WITH IT. THE BOTTOM LINE WAS : MOBILUS WAS UNINHABITABLE.

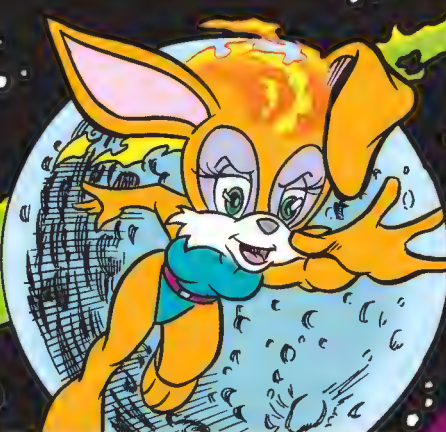
D'OH! ROBOTNIK! THAT WAS IT--NOT "IVOTNIK!"

MIRACULOUSLY, FOUR OF ZEE ORIGINAL KNOTHOLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS LIVED THROUGH ZEE FINAL FIRESTORM AND MANAGED TO DRAG THEMSELVES BACK TO ZEE SMOKING RUINS OF ROBOTROPOLIS, SEEKING A WAY OFF ZEE PLANET.

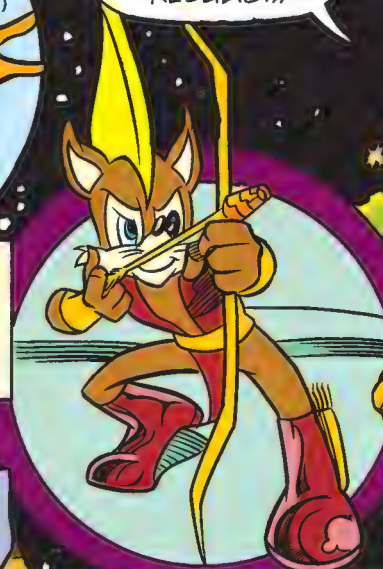


LOCATING UNDAMAGED SINGLE-PASSENGER SPACECRAFT IN ROBOTNIK'S ESCAPE TOWER, THEY LAUNCHED THEMSELVES TO INDIVIDUAL SURROUNDING PLANETS. OUR ANCESTORS VOWED TO ADAPT, POPULATE AND EVOLVE ANEW OR DIE TRYING.






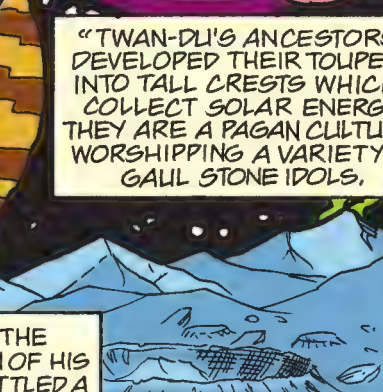
EACH SPECIES SURVIVED, BUT EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES OCCURED DUE TO THEIR NEW LOCATIONS WITH REMARKABLE RESULTS...




"BUNNI'S CLAN SETTLED THE PLANET CLOSEST TO THE SUN. LESS GRAVITY MADE THEM INCREDIBLE ACROBATS, AND STATIC ELECTRICITY MADE THEIR HAIR STAND UP AS IF IT WAS ON FIRE!




"TWAN-DLI'S ANCESTORS DEVELOPED THEIR TOUNPEES INTO TALL CRESTS WHICH COLLECT SOLAR ENERGY. THEY ARE A PAGAN CULTURE, WORSHIPPING A VARIETY OF GAUL STONE IDOLS.



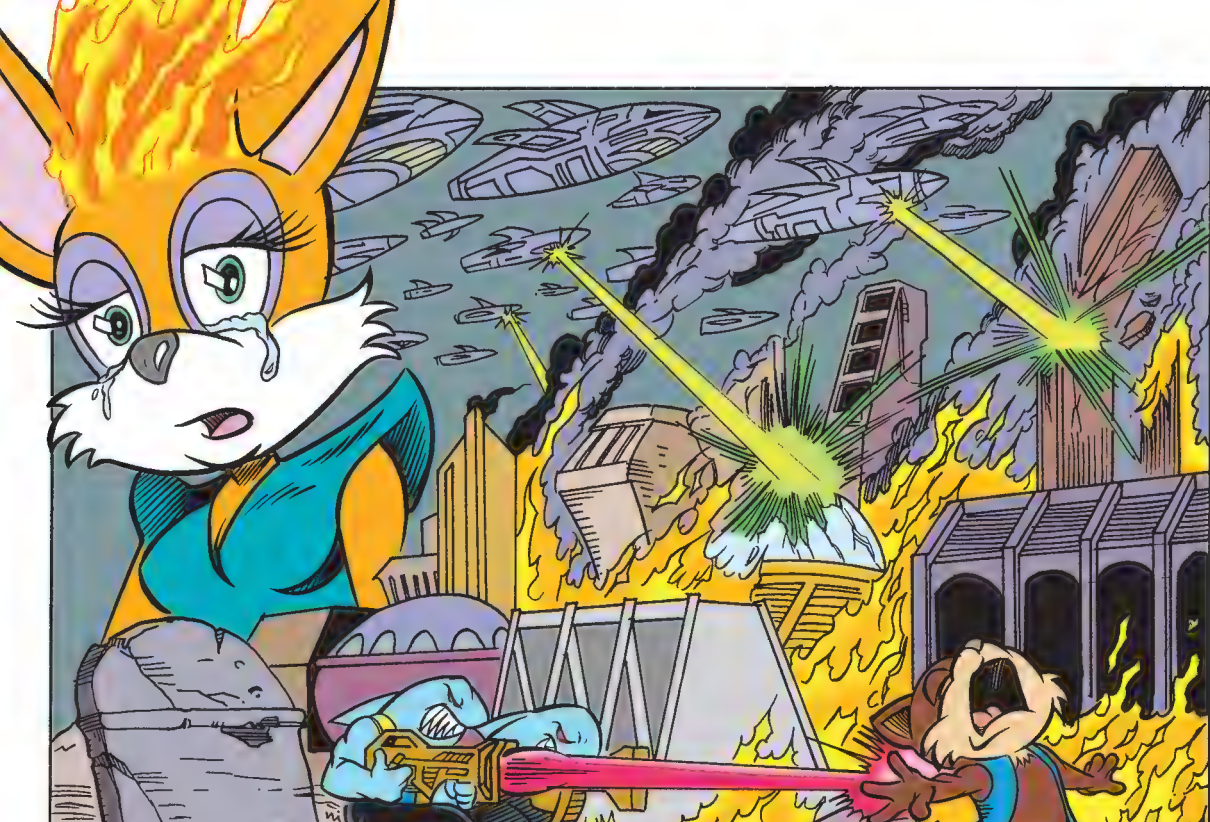
"ROTOR IS PART OF "GEN-27", THE TWENTY-SEVENTH INCARNATION OF HIS WALRUS FOREFATHER. THEY SETTLED A HARSH PLANET, DEVELOPED A SPARTAN CULTURE AND EVOLVED INTO POWERFUL PHYSICAL SPECIMENS.



"MY RACE PIONEERED BLUTO, THE PLANET FARTHEST FROM THE SUN. BECAUSE LIGHT WAS SO PRECIOUS, WE DEVELOPED THE CAPABILITY TO CONTROL IT WITH OUR MINDS. THUS, I AM ABLE TO COMMAND IT AS A WEAPON."



"IT WAS ALL GOING PRETTY WELL... UP UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN THE INVASION BEGAN!



"IN THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS MILITARY MOVE SINCE SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA, OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WAS OVERRUN BY A MERCILESS RACE OF FISH-LIKE CREATURES CALLED *THE SHARK* ! *

*THE SHARK WERE UNWITTINGLY CREATED BY THE FORTY FATHOMS FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHEN THEY LAUNCHED A SPACESHIP FULL OF THEIR HYDROTECHNOLOGY DURING THE WAR OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY-- ONE THAT YOU'RE WELCOME TO WRITE TO US AT SONIC GRAMS AND REQUEST--FREDITOR FREMERITUS.

AFTER THEIR FEEDING FRENZY OF GENOCIDE WAS COMPLETE, ZEE SHARK LEFT, LEETLE DID THEY KNOW ZAT ONE MEMBER OF EACH PLANET HAD SURVIVED THEIR CAMPAIGN OF TERROR !



THE MYSTERIOUS AND DOWNRIGHT UNFRIENDLY HAWKHAWK SCOUTED AND ORGANIZED US. WE FORMED A TEAM, PLEDGING TO DEFEND ANYONE ANYWHERE AGAINST EVIL AGGRESSION. WE CALL OURSELVES THE *FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY* !

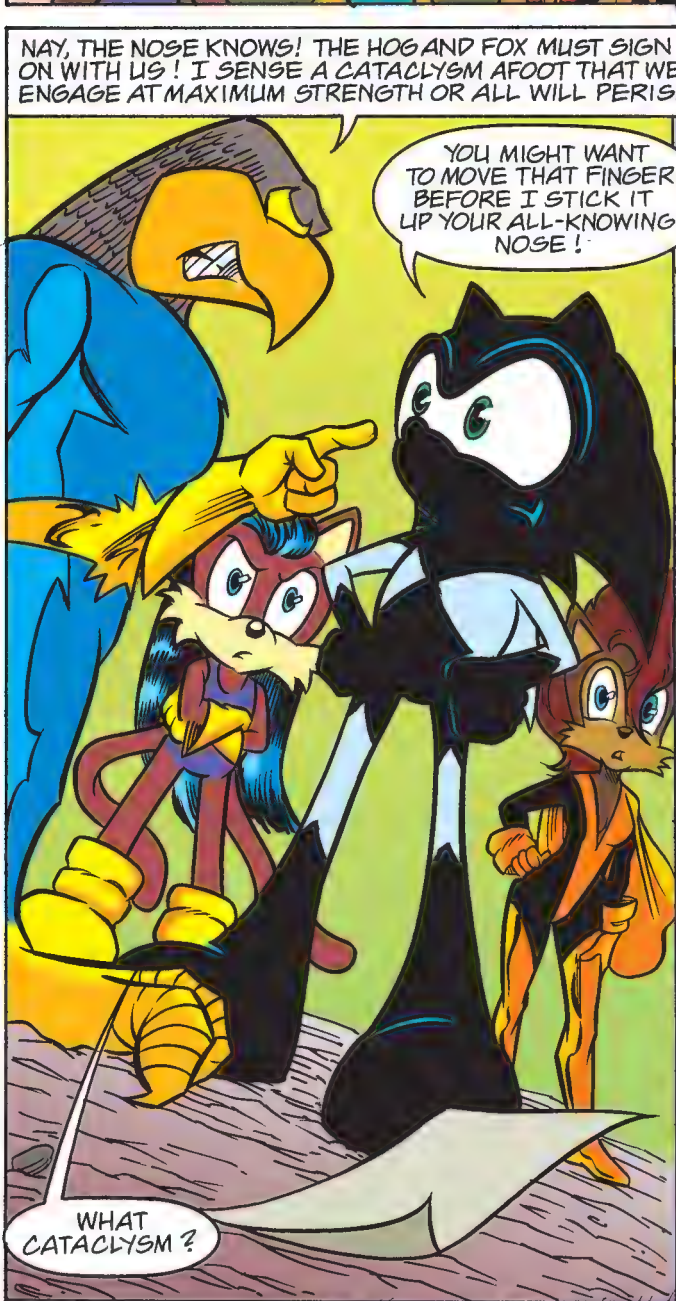




LISTEN, YOU TWO SHOWED US WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF DURING THAT FIGHT WITH THE BRASS ROBOTS. I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

HEAR, HEAR!

GEE... I DON'T KNOW...



YOU MIGHT WANT TO MOVE THAT FINGER BEFORE I STICK IT LIP YOUR ALL-KNOWING NOSE!

WHAT CATACLYSM?



CHUCK
DOOM!

THIS ONE!

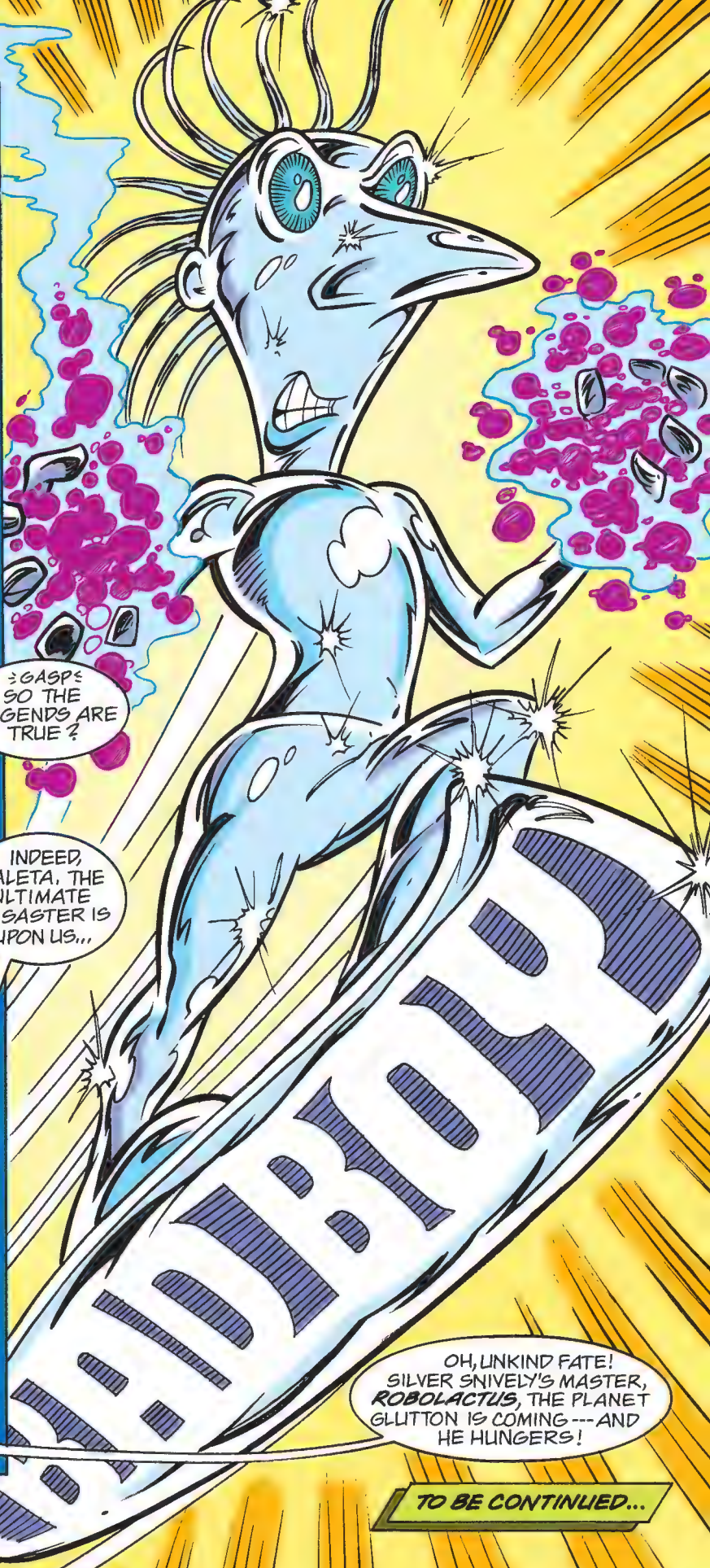
HOLY BUCKETS!
IT'S HIM!



≡GASPS≡
SO THE
LEGENDS ARE
TRUE?

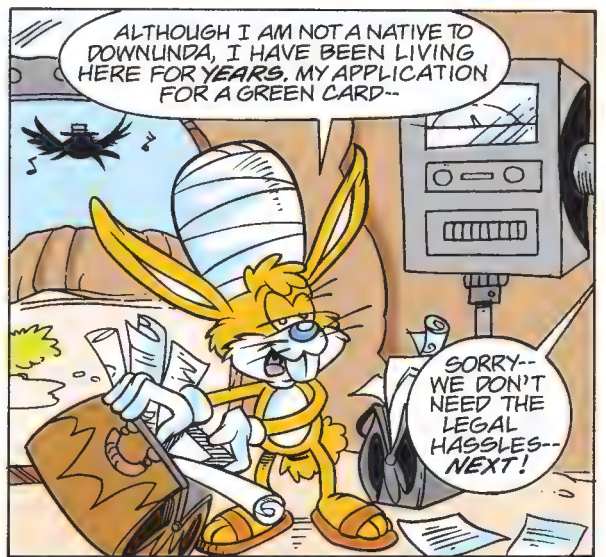
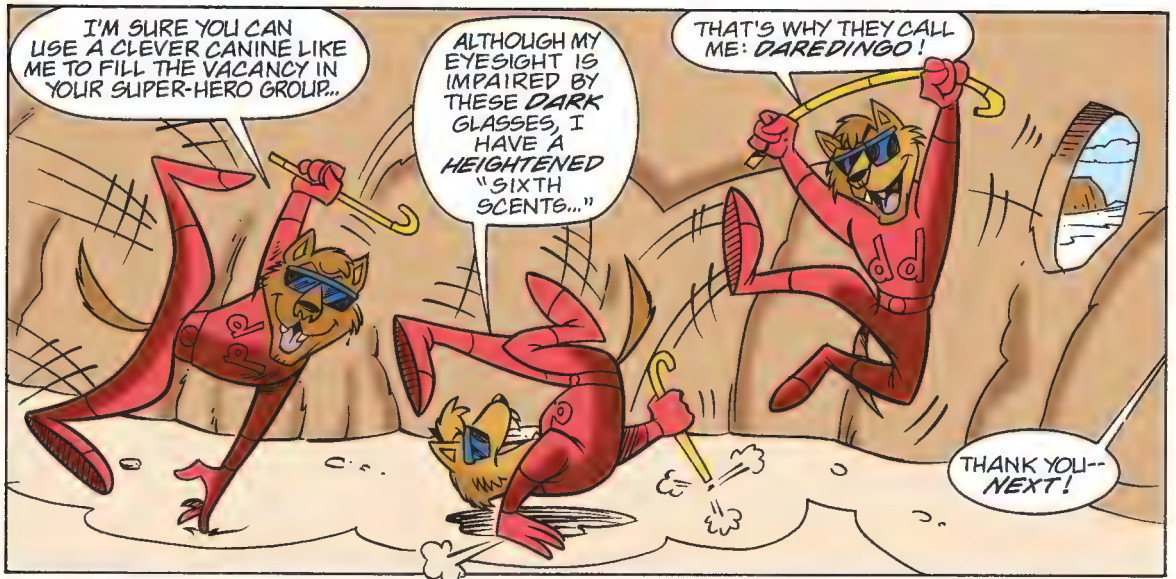
INDEED,
SALETA, THE
ULTIMATE
DISASTER IS
UPON US...

BEHOLD! IT IS
SILVER SNIVELY! HE IS
HERALD TO THE GREATEST
MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE
AND WHOSE ARRIVAL HERE
IS NOW A FORGONE
CONCLUSION...



OH, LINKIND FATE!
SILVER SNIVELY'S MASTER,
ROBOLACTUS, THE PLANET
GLUTTON IS COMING --- AND
HE HUNGERS!

TO BE CONTINUED...



DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS

IN MUCH TAKEN IDENTITY

PART ONE

IT LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE REPLACING WOMBAT STU ANYTIME SOON.*

AGREED. EVEN THOUGH THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING HERE IN DOWNUNDA, I SAY WE LEAVE THE TEAM AT ITS CURRENT MEMBERSHIP, FOUR. ANY OBJECTIONS?

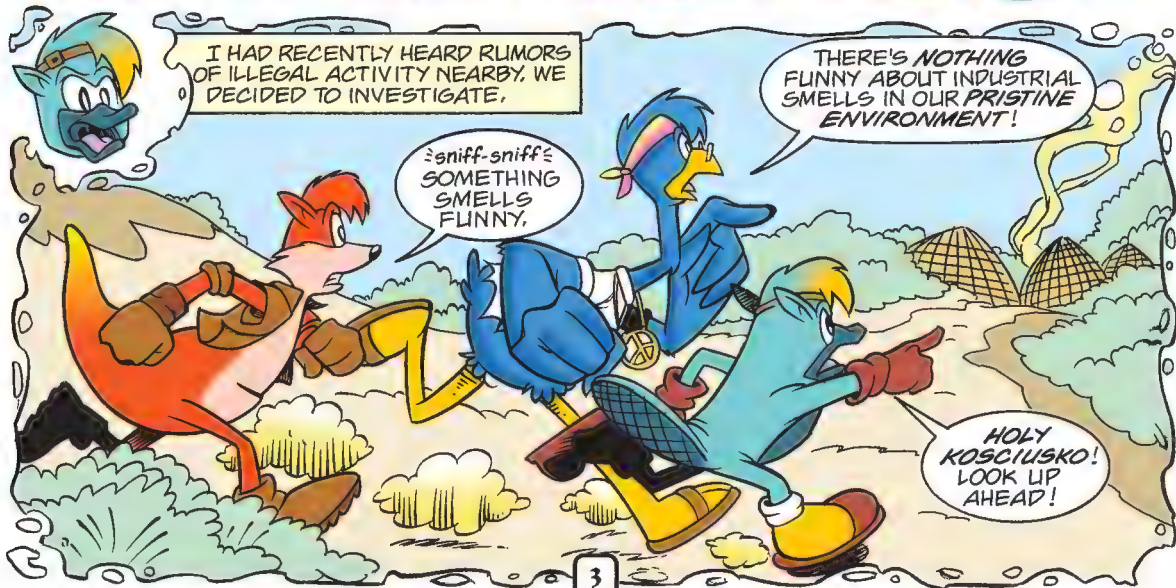
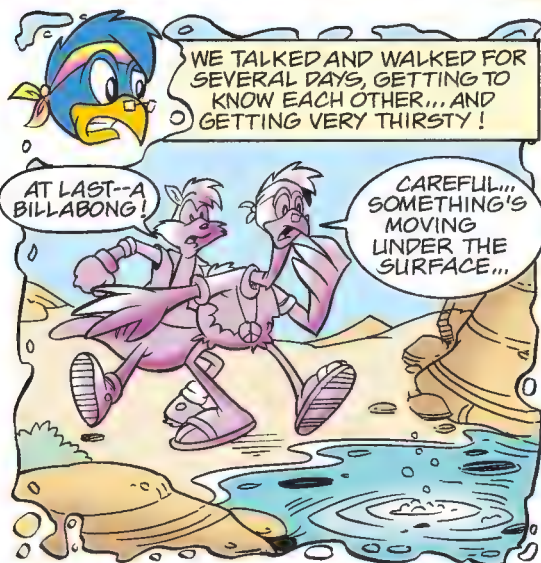
YAWN= NO.

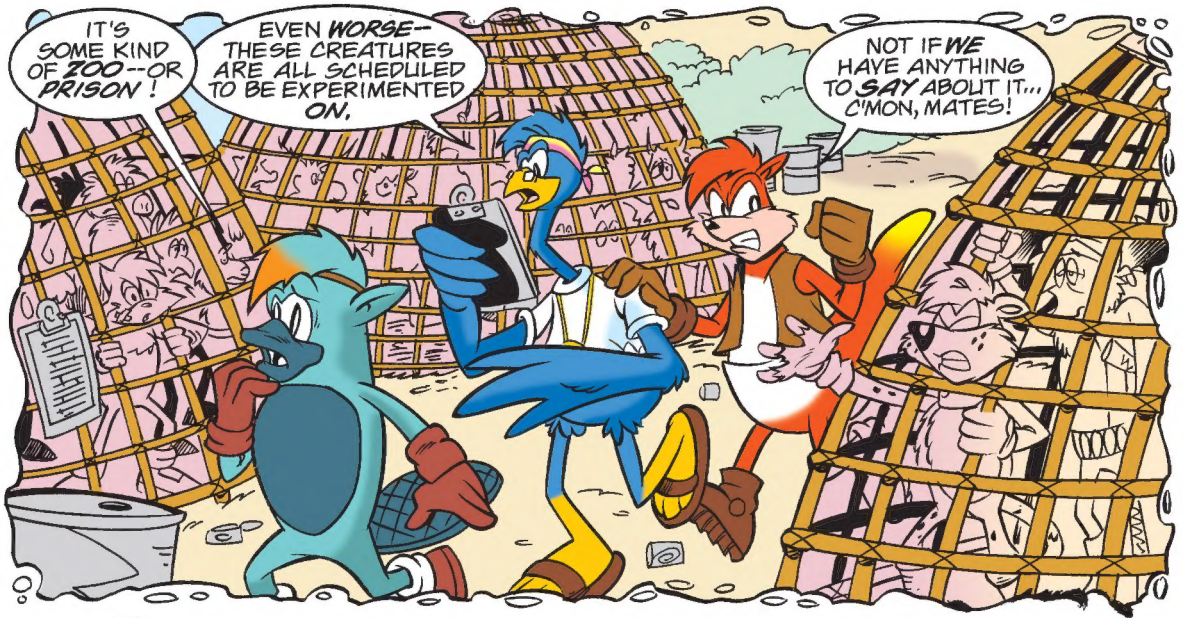
MAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN WE FIRST FORMED THIS GROUP.

*WOMBAT STU WAS RECRUITED BY GEOFFREY ST. JOHN IN SONIC #61 AND IS NOW A MEMBER OF KING ACORN'S SECRET SERVICE --JFG, EDITOR EMERITUS.

MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WRITER DAVE MANAK-PENCILLER
HARVO-INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER FRANK GAGLIARDO-COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR

IT SURE ISN'T, GURL. I REMEMBER HOW IT ALL **BEGAN**. BACK THEN, I WAS AN IDEALISTIC YOUNG WALLABY, DETERMINED TO DISCOVER MY DESTINY, I LEFT HOME AND WENT ON A WALKABOUT... OR IN MY CASE, A "HOPABOUT!"

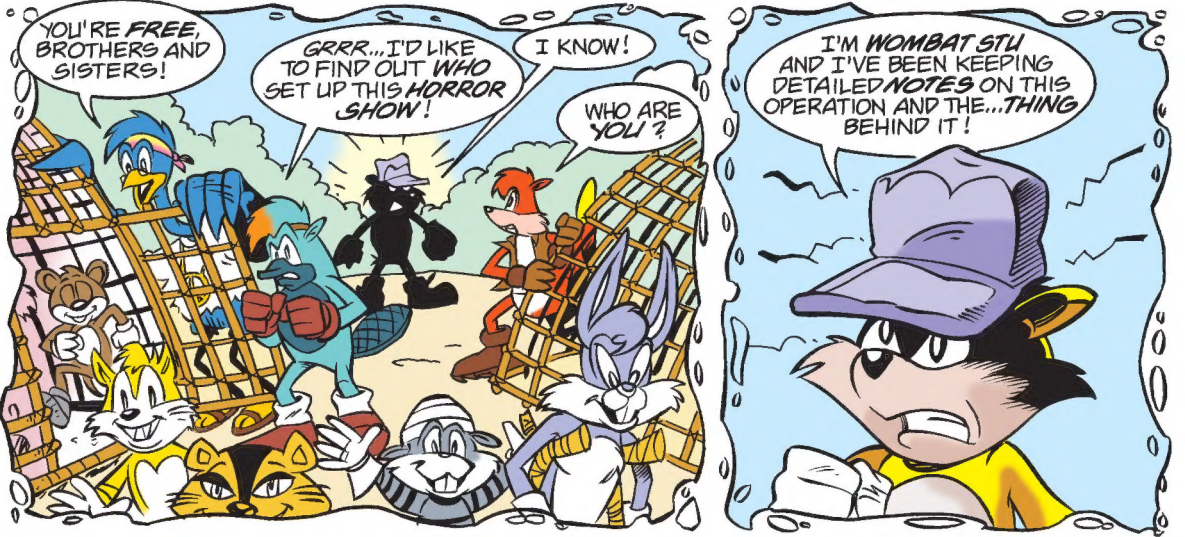




IT'S SOME KIND OF ZOO--OR PRISON!

EVEN WORSE-- THESE CREATURES ARE ALL SCHEDULED TO BE EXPERIMENTED ON,

NOT IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT... C'MON, MATES!



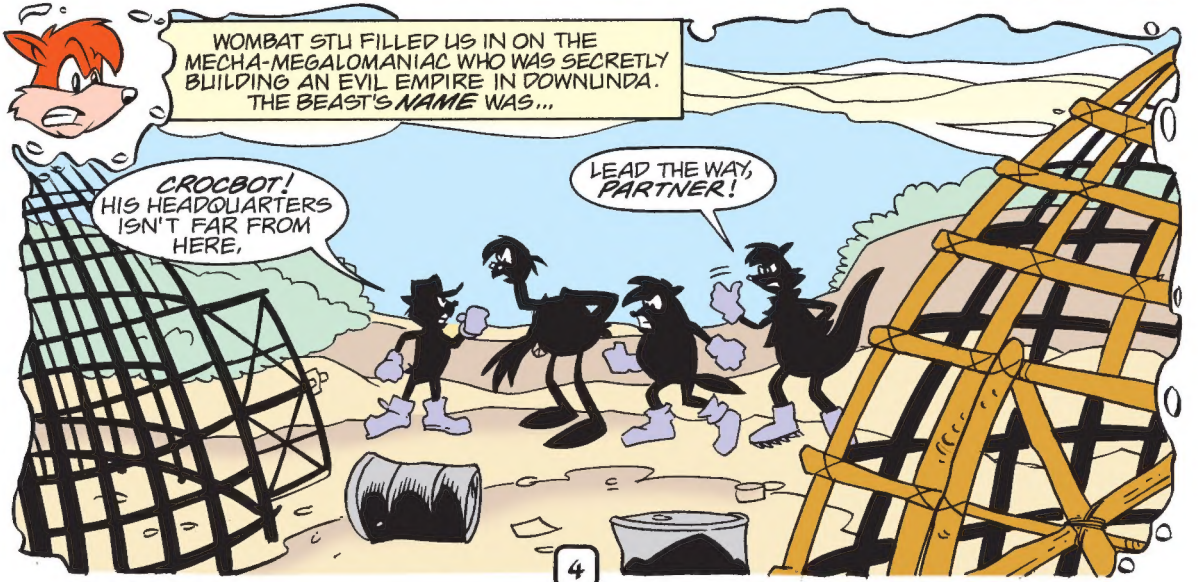
YOU'RE FREE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

GRRR... I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHO SET UP THIS HORROR SHOW!

I KNOW!

WHO ARE YOU?

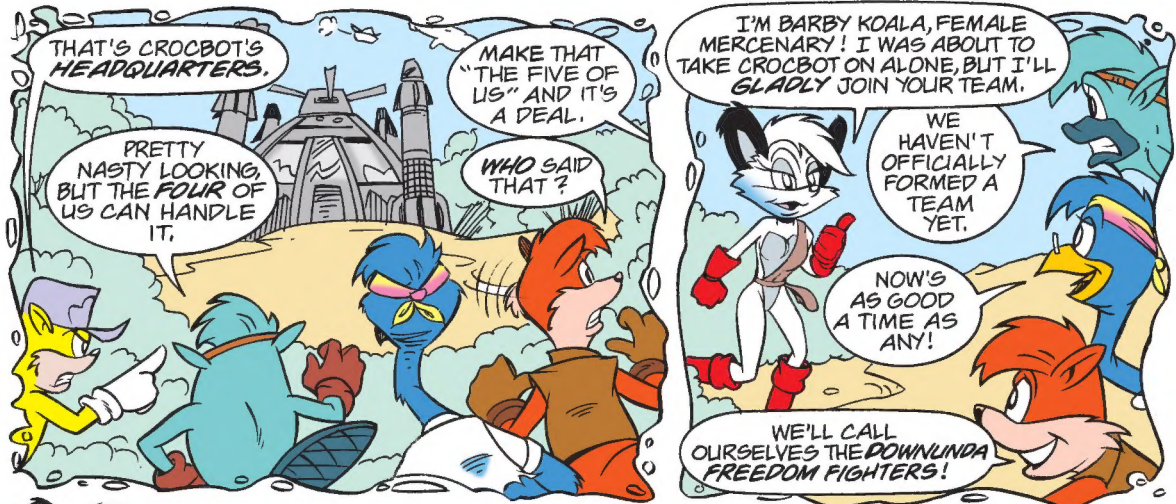
I'M WOMBAT STU AND I'VE BEEN KEEPING DETAILED NOTES ON THIS OPERATION AND THE...THING BEHIND IT!



WOMBAT STU FILLED US IN ON THE MECHA-MEGALOMANIAC WHO WAS SECRETLY BUILDING AN EVIL EMPIRE IN DOWNUNDA. THE BEAST'S NAME WAS...

CROCBOT! HIS HEADQUARTERS ISN'T FAR FROM HERE,

LEAD THE WAY, PARTNER!



THAT'S CROCBOT'S HEADQUARTERS.

PRETTY NASTY LOOKING, BUT THE FOUR OF US CAN HANDLE IT.

MAKE THAT "THE FIVE OF US" AND IT'S A DEAL.

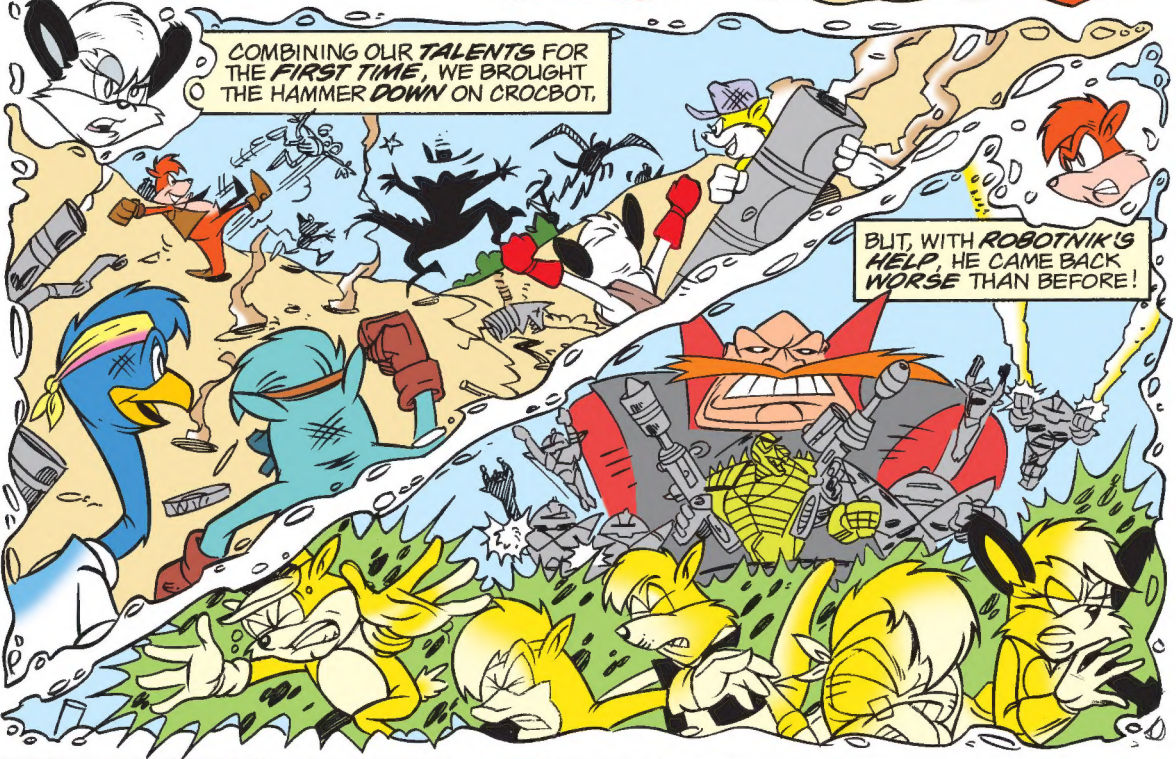
WHO SAID THAT?

I'M BARBY KOALA, FEMALE MERCENARY! I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE CROCBOT ON ALONE, BUT I'LL GLADLY JOIN YOUR TEAM.

WE HAVEN'T OFFICIALLY FORMED A TEAM YET.

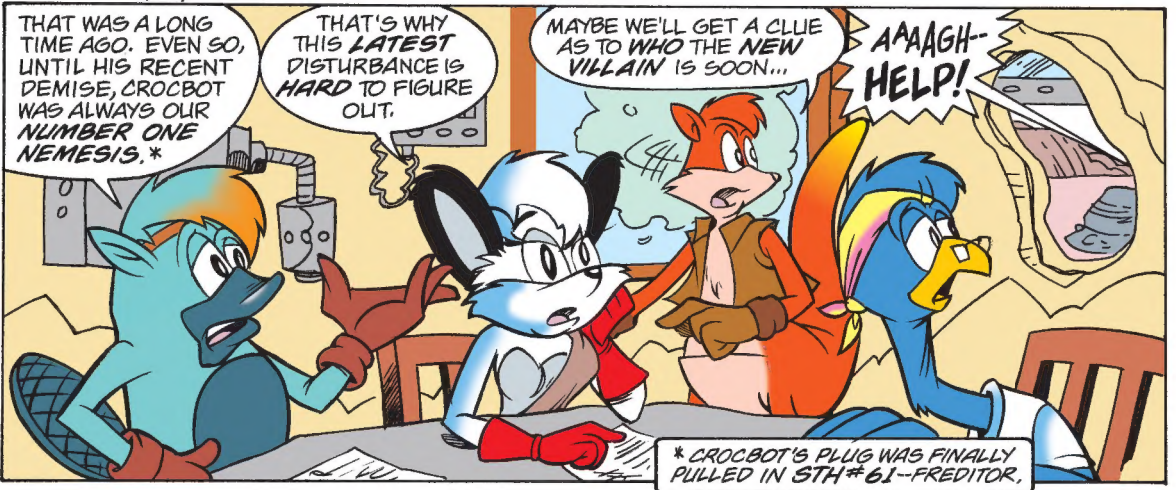
NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!

WE'LL CALL OURSELVES THE DOWNLUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



COMBINING OUR TALENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE BROUGHT THE HAMMER DOWN ON CROCBOT.

BUT, WITH ROBOTNIK'S HELP, HE CAME BACK WORSE THAN BEFORE!



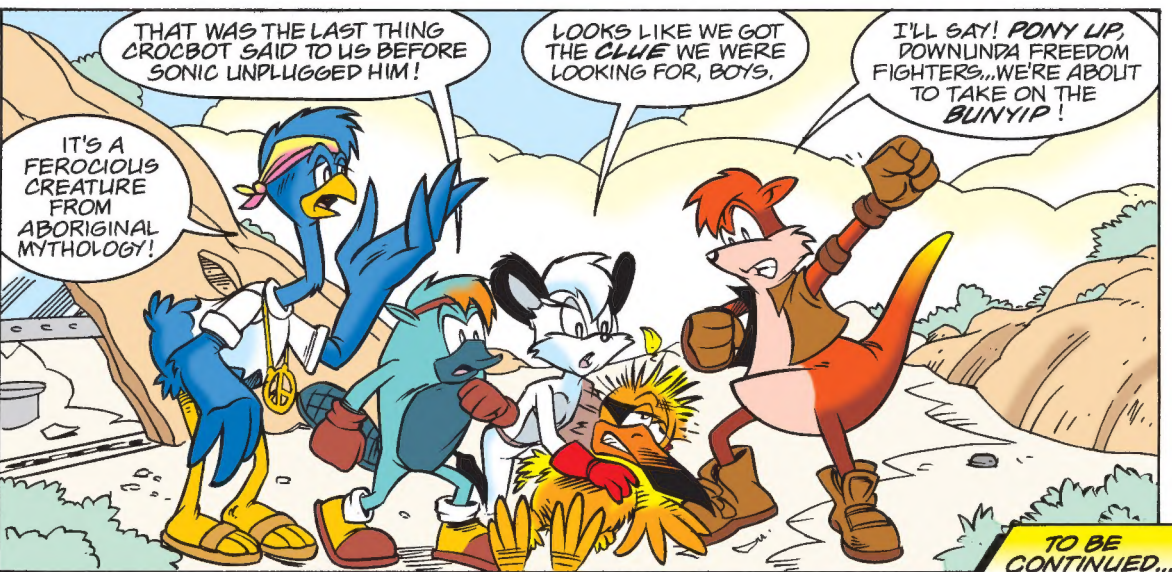
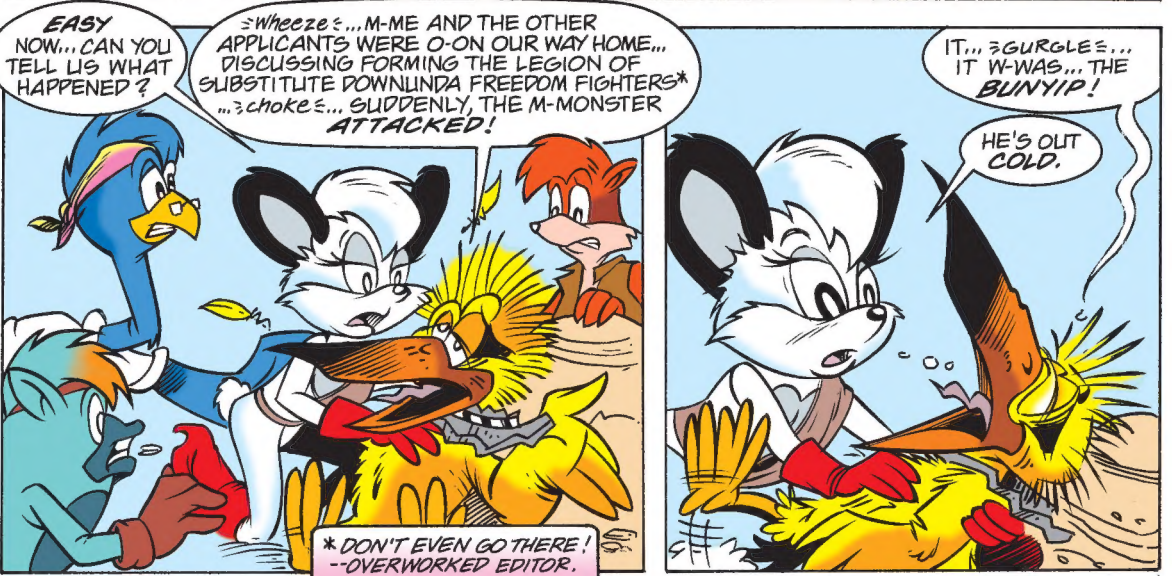
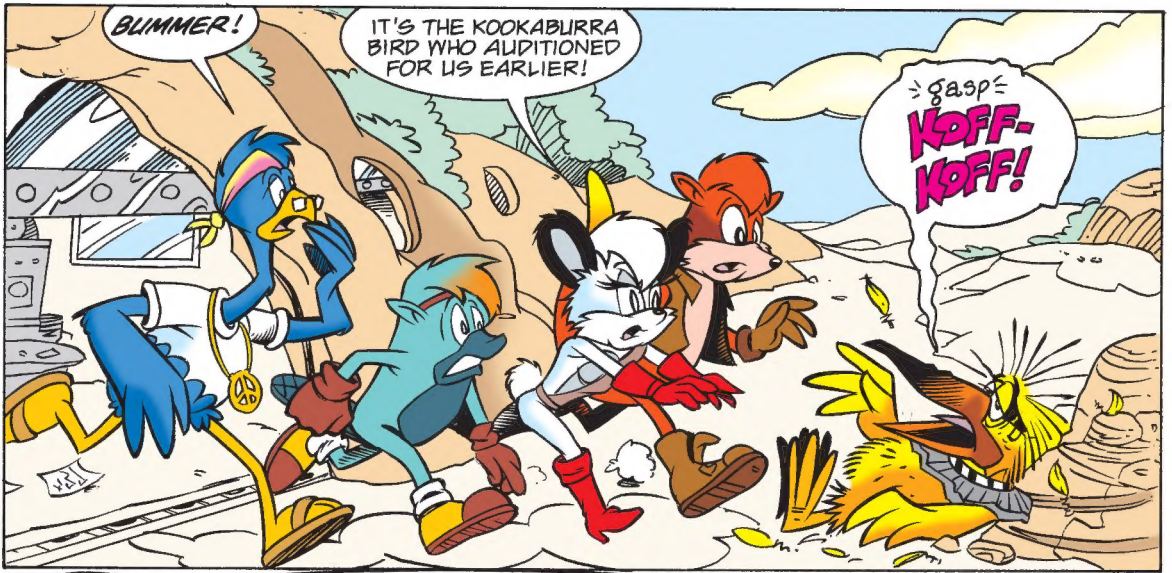
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. EVEN SO, UNTIL HIS RECENT DEMISE, CROCBOT WAS ALWAYS OUR NUMBER ONE NEMESIS.*

THAT'S WHY THIS LATEST DISTURBANCE IS HARD TO FIGURE OUT.

MAYBE WE'LL GET A CLUE AS TO WHO THE NEW VILLAIN IS SOON...

AAAAGH--HELP!

* CROCBOT'S PLUG WAS FINALLY PULLED IN STH#61-FREDITOR.

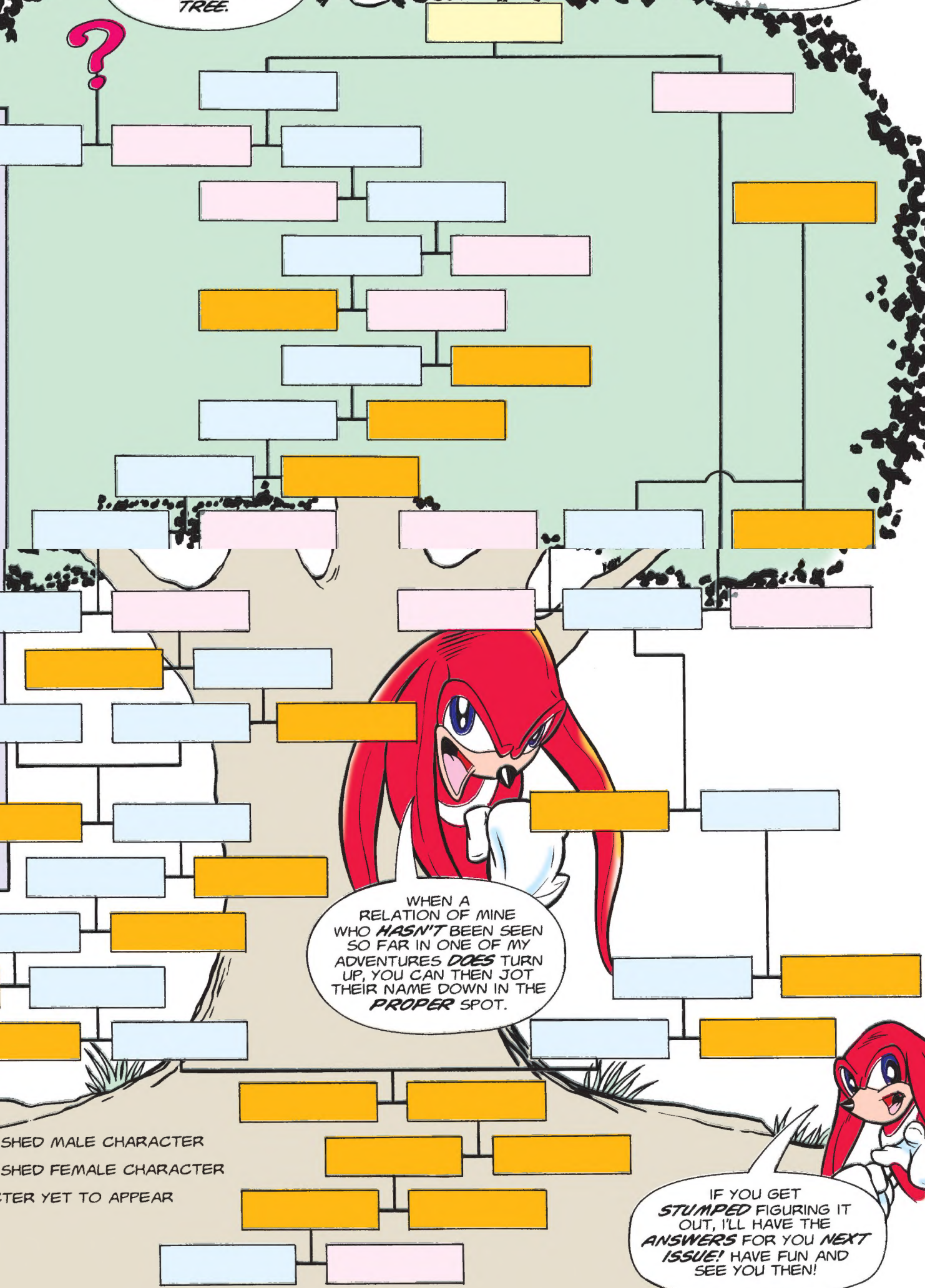


FOR SOME TIME NOW, EVERYONE'S BEEN ASKING JUST WHO'S RELATED TO WHOM IN MY FAMILY, SO I PUT TOGETHER THIS SCORECARD FOR ALL YOU READERS TO KEEP TRACK WITH.

THOSE OF YOU WHOVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION SHOULD KNOW WHICH NAME FROM THE COLUMN ON THE LEFT GOES WITH WHICH BOX ON THE TREE.

BUT I'LL BE A SPORT ABOUT IT AND TELL YOU THE YELLOW BOXES ARE FOR CHARACTERS YET TO BE SHOWN OR MENTIONED.

- JORDANN
- KAYLA-LA
- EDMUND
- DIMITRI
- STEPPEWOLF
- MENNIKER
- MOONWATCHER
- HARLAN
- MORITORI REX
- REMBRANDT
- AARON
- JORDAN
- LUGER
- MERIN-DA
- MARI-SU
- MATTHIAS
- KRAGOK
- LIEN-DA
- HAWKING
- SONJA-RA
- TOROS
- SPECTRE
- THUNDERHAWK
- SOJOURNER
- JANELLE-LI
- ATHAIR
- CRYSTAL-LA
- SABRE
- JENNA-LU
- LOCKE
- LARA-LE
- WYNMACHER
- KNUCKLES
- JULIE-SU
- LARA-SU



WHEN A RELATION OF MINE WHO *HASN'T* BEEN SEEN SO FAR IN ONE OF MY ADVENTURES *DOES* TURN UP, YOU CAN THEN JOT THEIR NAME DOWN IN THE *PROPER* SPOT.

IF YOU GET *STUMPED* FIGURING IT OUT, I'LL HAVE THE *ANSWERS* FOR YOU *NEXT* ISSUE! HAVE FUN AND SEE YOU THEN!

- = ESTABLISHED MALE CHARACTER
- = ESTABLISHED FEMALE CHARACTER
- = CHARACTER YET TO APPEAR